

REMARKS

In the aforesaid Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Stevens (U.S. Patent No. 4,798,586), and claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevens or Dustrude et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,911,752) alone. Claims 1-6 and 14-33 are pending, and claims 14-30 are withdrawn (new claims 31-33 being added by this amendment).

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, stating the Examiner requests the inclusion of the outer tubular member in claim 1 with a description of the structural relationship with the inner tubular member. Applicant has amended claim 1 to obviate the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Stevens, stating that Stevens shows in figure 5a distal extremity of the catheter shaft having a tubular portion with an expanded section of cylindrical shape (49) having an outer diameter greater than an outer diameter of an unexpanded section of the tubular portion proximal to the expanded section. However, Stevens does not disclose or suggest that portion (49) has a larger inner diameter than an unexpanded portion located proximal thereto. Rather, as illustrated in figure 5 of Stevens, the inner diameter of the shaft along expanded portion (49) is not larger than the inner diameter of the unexpanded portion of the shaft located proximal to expanded portion (49). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

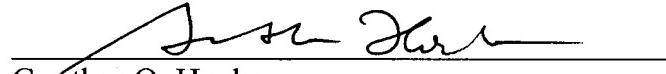
Moreover, Stevens does not disclose or suggest that the expanded portion (49) is located distal to the balloon distal skirt section, as required by new claim 31.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-6 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevens or Dustrude et al. alone. However, in light of the amendment and remarks above relating to the claim 1, Applicant submits that as claim 1 defines patentable subject matter, claims 2-6, which depend from claim 1, must also be allowable over the references.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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